

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 10 will have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. The attachment to this Amendment shows the amendments made to claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 10 by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

RESPONSE TO §102 REJECTIONS:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,803,601 to Collot et al. (hereafter, Collot). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,258,897 to Nino (hereafter Nino). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent No. 2,674,443 to Eichler et al. (hereafter Eichler) or French Patent No. 2,564,946 to Lyzbinski (hereafter, Lyzbinski). Finally, claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,037,134 to Loper (hereafter, Loper), U.S. Patent No. 5,660,454 to Mori et al. (hereafter, Mori) or U.S. Patent No. 5,707, 129 to Kobayashi (hereafter, Kobayashi). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

The applicant has herein amended independent claims 1 and 8 to more particularly point out that the reflector is asymmetrical with respect to a plane on the central axis of the light source. The asymmetrical shape of the reflector creates different angular offset between two zones in a light beam. This is a feature that is not disclosed in the prior art of record and support for this amendment can be found in figures 3, 4 and 5, as well as on page 7, lines 18-23 of the specification.

Collot

Collot is directed to a motor vehicle headlight with a reflector that comprises at least two side zones that form small images of the filament defining concentration spots of a beam. More specifically, the two zones are symmetrical portions of a paraboloid that have the same focal length and same focal position. (Col. 7, lines 18-20). In other words, the reflecting surface in the first zone of the reflector is identical to the reflecting surface in the second zone. Fig. 1 of Collot further illustrates the symmetry of the two portions (202', 202) of the reflector. To this end, a beam reflected a certain point in the first zone would have the same angular offset as a beam reflected in the same corresponding position in the second zone. Therefore, the reflector in Collot could not be asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis of the light source so as to create different angular offset between two zones of a reflected light beam.

Nino

Nino is directed to a vehicular headlight reflector for forming a low beam light-distribution pattern by effectively utilizing the entire reflecting surface. Specifically, the reflector is comprised of a first and second reflecting sector operative to contribute to formation of a pattern image below a horizontal line of a low beam light-distribution pattern. (Col. 26, lines 8-17). However, nowhere does Nino disclose a reflector asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis of the light source so as to create different angular offset between two zones of a reflected light beam.

Eichler

Eichler is directed to a vehicle headlamp unit that uses an ellipsoidal reflector. The reflector has four different quadrants that each focus for the left-hand quadrants lying in front of the

corresponding focus for the right-hand quadrants relative to the apex of the reflector. (See Abstract). However, as further illustrated in Fig. 1, the reflector is symmetrical. Thus, the reflector in Eichler could not be asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis of the light source so as to create different angular offset between two zones of a reflected light beam.

Lyzbinski

Lyzbinski is directed to a fog lamp that includes a reflector with two paraboloidal portions whose axes of revolution respectively make a predetermined angle with each other and intersect at a focal point situated on the axis of the reflector. As illustrated in fig. 1a and fig. 2a two paraboloidal portions are symmetrical with the same focal length and same focal position. Thus, the reflection of the light beam from each portion would have the same angular offset. To this end, the reflector could not be asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis of a light source so as to create different angular offset between two zones of a reflected light beam.

Loper, Mori and Kobayashi

Loper is directed to an installation for the automatic control of a light projection distance for a motor vehicle headlight. Specifically, the projecting distance of the vehicle headlight is dependent on a positional change of the vehicle body. (Col.1, lines 5-10

Mori is directed to an apparatus for controlling the light distribution of a headlamp for positively illuminating a position viewed by the driver. More specifically, the apparatus includes a control device that controls the direction of illumination or the range of the headlamp based on a calculation by a calculation device. (see Abstract).

Kobayashi is directed to a headlamp for a vehicle that includes a rotatable shade for vertically moving and adjusting a clear-cut line for a low beam produced by the headlamp. The

rotatable shade is automatically moved a predetermined amount in accordance with the information obtained by a steering sensor. (see Abstract).

Thus, Loper, Mori and Kobayashi similarly disclose apparatus for controlling the direction of a beam from a headlamp. The direction of the beam is controlled by the movement of the headlamp using some type of electro-mechanical control system, not by the shape of the reflector itself. Thus, nowhere does Loper, Mori and Kobayashi disclose the use of an symmetric reflector, let alone a reflector that is asymmetric along a plane on the central axis of a light source so as to create different angular offset between two zones of a reflected light beam.

Based on the above, claims 1 and 8 (as amended) are now believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Moreover, claims 2-7 and 9-11 are also believed to be allowable based on their dependency on claims 1 and 8.

Additionally, the Applicants also maintain that a claim 2 is allowable over the prior art of record on its own merit. Specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose a reflector that creates a beam with two zones that are offset angularly from each other by an amount in the range of 30 to 40 degrees.

Further, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide a basis for rejection of the dependent claims so that the Applicants may more effectively respond to the rejections to those claims. For example, in the Office Action, the Examiner has not particularly pointed out what is being relied on in the cited references to maintain the rejections to claims 2-7, 10 and 11. The Office Action states only the language recited in independent claims 1 and 8, and dependent claim 9 for maintaining all the rejections.

CONCLUSIONS:

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:


Mark D. Pratt
Reg. No.:45,794
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Morgan & Finnegan
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

PATENT
Attorney's Docket No. 1948-4706

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : BLUSSEAU et al Group Art Unit: 2875
Serial No : 09/557,835 Examiner: T. Sember
Filed : April 26, 2000
For : A DUAL FUNCTION HEADLIGHT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE
WITH A SINGLE LIGHT SOURCE AND FIXED OPTICS



ATTACHMENT SHOWING MARKUP OF CHANGES

Commissioner Of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Amendments made to specification and claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, lines 15-19, please replace the entire paragraph with the following:

--According to the invention in a first aspect, a headlight for a motor vehicle, comprising a light source which cooperates with optical means to produce a beam which is generally spread widthwise, is [characterised] characterized in that the optical means are adapted to create within the beam two distinct zones of maximum light intensity--

On page 2, lines 22-23, please replace the entire paragraph with the following:

---[of] the maximum light intensity zones is adapted to be situated substantially on the axis of the road;--

On page 3, lines 12-23, please replace the entire paragraph with the following:

--According to the invention in a second aspect, the present invention provides a pair of headlights for a motor vehicle, consisting of a left-hand light and a right-hand light, [characterised] characterized in that a first said light produces a first beam which is generally spread widthwise, with a first zone of maximum light intensity offset in a first lateral direction with respect to the axis of the road, and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road, and in that the other said light produces a second beam which is generally spread widthwise, with a first zone of maximum light intensity offset in a second lateral direction opposite to the first lateral direction with respect to the axis of the road, and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road.--

On page 6, lines 3-11, please replace the entire paragraph with the following:

--The vehicle also has two dual-function headlights, namely a left hand dual-function light PVAG and a right hand dual-function light PVAD. The two functions are those of a dipped beam, illuminating the verge of the road, and a foglight beam. These dual-function headlights will be described in greater detail later herein. There is also provision for a road illumination function, for example either by a pair of specific headlights or driving lights not shown, or in a manner incorporated in the cruising headlights, which are accordingly

equipped for example with double filament lamps of the H4 [normalised] normalized type or the like.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A headlight for a motor vehicle, for travel along a road defining an axis of the road which is the general direction of travel of the vehicle, the headlight comprising a light source and optical reflector [means] adjacent to the light source for [cooperation with the light source for] producing a beam which is generally spread widthwise with respect to the axis of the road, wherein the said optical reflector is [means are] adapted to create in said beam two distinct zones of maximum light intensity, wherein said optical reflector has a central axis passing through the light source in the beam direction, and is asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis so as to create different angular offset between the two zones.

2. (Amended) A headlight according to claim 1, wherein the said optical reflector is [means are] adapted to put one of the said zones of maximum light intensity substantially in the axis of the road.

6. (Amended) A headlight according to claim 1, wherein the optical reflector produces [means comprise a reflector for producing] said beam directly from the light source.

8. (Amended) A pair of headlights for a motor vehicle for travel along a road defining an axis of the road such that travel of the vehicle is substantially along the axis of the road, the said pair of headlights comprising a left hand light and a right hand light, wherein a first one of the said lights is adapted to produce a first beam generally spread widthwise with respect to the axis of the road and having a first zone of maximum light intensity offset from the axis of the road in a first lateral direction and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road, and [wherein] the other said light is adapted to produce a second beam generally spread widthwise and having a first zone of maximum light intensity offset from the axis of the road in a second lateral direction opposite to the said first lateral direction and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road, wherein each said light includes an optical reflector that has a central axis passing through the light source in the beam direction, and is asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis so as to create different angular offset between the first and second zones.

10. (Amended) A pair of headlights according to claim 8, wherein [each] said [headlight includes a] reflector is adapted to form its beam directly from the light source, and wherein the two headlights include reflectors identical with each other but tilted laterally in two opposite directions.